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Duties of Latter Day Saints.

Tithes, Fast Offerings, Purity of Life, General Duties.

Beloved Brethren and Sisters:

I should be glad to travel among you, and meet you all, and talk to you upon the precious principles of the Gospel, and thus discharge my duties and obligations to you—ward, that we might become acquainted with each other, and that I might be instrumental in the hands of the Lord in building you up, and in strengthening you in our most holy faith; and this I hope to do in the near future but as I can not reach you all, I feel constrained to write to you, that I may lay before you some of those things that are the burden of my thoughts.

There has been a great slackness on the part of many of the saints in the payment of their tithes and offerings. A careful examination of the mission records shows plainly, that there are many good and faithful saints in the mission who have paid their tithes steadily and honestly before the Lord for years and thus they have been a great help in building up

the kingdom of God on the earth and they have thereby laid up treasures in heaven, where, the Lord says, by the Prophet Malachi, that a book of remembrance is kept before him, and that he will remember them, when he makes up his jewels, as a man remembereth his own son that serveth him. To all such let me say, go on in the good work: slacken not your hand: grow not weary by the way, but continue in well doing, for the eye of the Almighty is upon you, his hand is over you for good, and a crown of glory awaits you, which shall not grow dim, but shall grow brighter and brighter until the perfect day.

Again, there are those who seem never to have understood the importance of this commandment from God. If we judge from their actions, which speak louder than words; they evidently thought if they were baptized they would be saved: there was no work to do. The kingdom of God would build itself up. They hope to go into the great Temples of the Lord and receive all their blessings there, forgetting that those temples are sacred and holy places, made such by the blessings of the Lord and sacrifices of the saints, having been built by the tithes and hard earned offerings of the saints and thus they become sanctified and all who enter there must be sanctified by the same law of tithing or they can not enter. Hereafter the tithing records of this mission will

be carefully consulted before recommendations are signed if for any who are moving to Zion.

The California mission over which, in the providences of the Lord, I presided nearly five years; with but one State, and 600 saints paid in tithing in the year 1901 one hundred dollars more than the whole Southern States mission paid in 1900 its most prosperous year, with its 10 states, and over 5,000 members. This, dear saints, will enable you to measure yourselves by the saints in other missions and thus you may see what you have got to do to come up to the standard of saints elsewhere.

Let me now call your attention to the word of God as given by the Prophet Malachi, 3:8-11, "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and in offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse; for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of Hosts." This law of tithing

is not a new one. It is the condition upon which the Lord has permitted man to inhabit the earth; for as the scriptures saith, the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; he made it and has borne the running expenses of it up to date; we certainly have not; but we have come in upon its face like a lot of pirates or freebooters. We have appropriated the Lord's lands: drank at his beautiful fountains; breathed his balmy breezes; feasted upon the bounties of his earth, and refused to acknowledge his ownership, or pay him rents for his lands. Pay to the Lord his rents. Or in other words, his tithings and be blessed by him, or fail to do so and be regarded by him, as a robber and merit his condemnation.

The word of the Lord to the Prophet Joseph was, "Behold now it is called today (until the coming of the Son of man) and verily it is a day of sacrifice and a day of tithing of my people for he that is tithed shall not be burned at his coming, for after today cometh the burning." D. - C. 241. Also page 4123-7. "And this shall be the beginning of the tithing of my people; and after that, those who have thus been tithed, shall pay one-tenth of all their interest annually; and this shall be a standing law to them forever, for my holy priesthood, saith the Lord. Verily, I say unto you, it shall come to pass, that all those who gather unto the land of Zion shall be tithed

of their surplus properties, and shall observe this law, or they shall not be found worthy to abide among you. And I say unto you, if my people observe not this law, to keep it holy, and by this law sanctify the land of Zion unto me, that my statutes and my judgments may be kept thereon, that it may be most holy, behold, verily I say unto you, it shall not be a land of Zion unto you. And this shall be an ensample unto all the stakes of Zion. Even so, Amen."

Obedience to the Gospel and to this law of tithing has called down the blessing of the Lord upon the people and made them what they are today. It has enabled them to gather over 90,000 of their members from the old world countries. By their tithes and freewill offerings they have built the great Temple and Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, which are the wonder and admiration of the leading men of the world. Besides these, were other Temples, and scores of Tabernacles, and hundreds of meeting houses throughout the land. The Lord has blessed them abundantly through their observance of this law. Now, my dear brethren and sisters, let me urge you to arise, arise, in the dignity of your manhood and womanhood, as true Latter Day Saints, and show to God that you are worthy to be called saints, by keeping his commandments. Jesus says, "In vain do ye call me Lord, Lord, yet do not the things which I

command you." Saints of the Southern States Mission, awake from your drowsiness; arise, from your lethargy; put on the armor of righteousness; prove yourselves worthy of the immense amount of labor of the servants of God that has been spent for your welfare; for truly they have left all, father and mother, brother and sister; wife and children, houses and lands and all they held dear in life for the Gospel's sake, that they might bring you to a knowledge of the truth; that having found the precious treasure, they might impart it to you, and thus enable you to obtain eternal life. They have been your servants, and have labored faithfully and well for your soul's salvation; and they have suffered hunger and thirst and exposures and have been willing to accept if it were but a crust or anything they could get that they might remain and deliver to you the message of life and salvation. They have been afflicted and tormented and cruelly beaten and mobbed and some of them shot to death, while others have taken sick in this, to them, unhealthy climate and have had to be taken home, some in their coffins, and others have returned wasted with disease and emaciated in form, the mere wreck of their former selves and from which some of them will never recover. Children have been left fatherless; wives have been made widows; and parents have been bereft of their noble sons, for

your sakes, that the Gospel might be preached in these Southern States missions. Now my beloved Brethren and sisters, seeing that it has cost Zion so much to send you the Gospel and to teach you its precious truths, ought you not to arise, and come up to the standard of true latter-day saints? Ought you not to say, as did one of old, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Prove to God, to holy angels and to the Priesthood in Zion that you are saints in deed and in fact, and not in name only. Remember, where there is a will there is a way.

The question often arises as to what is done with the tithing. In the early days of the church an organization was effected known as "The Perpetual Emigrating Company" by which over 30,000 souls were gathered from the old world countries between the years of 1840 and 1850. It was estimated that over half of them were emigrated by the hard earned tithes and freewill offerings of the people of Utah. I took part in this great work. In the year 1864 five hundred teams were sent from Utah to the Missouri river, a distance of eleven hundred miles and back, making 2,200 miles for teams in one summer. This called for 4,000 head of cattle and about five hundred and sixty men. I was one of those men. The bare cost of sending out those teams and the use of them that summer, was about \$120,000.

Q. They brought nearly five thousand souls to Utah that season. This work of sending out teams to emigrate the saints was begun in the year 1861, and continued till 1867. This was titling. The money that paid the fare from England for over half of all these saints across the sea, and up the Missouri river to where the teams could receive them, was titling and offerings of the Saints. This emigration of the Saints continued as time rolled on, and just twenty years later, I came home from England in charge of a company of six hundred souls. The government at last in its fight against the church broke up the company and confiscated its property. The four great Temples have all been built by the tithes and free-will offerings of the Saints.

It takes money to gather the Saints from the world; to build Temples and to do all the work, and to wear all the expenses of the church. There is no other income but the tithing of the Saints with which to do it. The Lord has issued the command: And faithful Saints live up to it. They can have a right and are entitled to His blessings and favor.

When a sinner repents of his sins, and with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, fully determines to live a better life, goes down into the waters of Baptism, his sins are washed away. When he receives the Gift of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands,

he has a testimony in his soul that his sins are forgiven and that he is in harmony with God, and is no longer one of the children of the world but is a citizen of the kingdom of God and as such, ought to obey its laws. He was a sinner, but through obedience to the ordinances, his sins are washed away, and when he partakes of the emblems of the flesh and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, he is sanctified before the Lord, and he is a Saint. Now having sanctified himself, through obedience to the ordinances of the house of God, he should proceed to sanctify the land upon which he dwells or the source from which he draws his sustenance by paying his tithes to the Lord, or for the establishment of His kingdom on the earth. When a man does this, the curse is removed from the land, and it yields in its strength, an abundance for the benefit and blessing of the man and his loved ones who has thus subdued it to the will of the Lord and consecrated it to the upbuilding of his kingdom and to the establishment of righteousness.

It takes money to run a mission. The elders give their own time and spend their money for railroad fares and all other expenses and to pay for the tracts they give away. Mission headquarters and hall rents have to be paid and a lot of other expenses have to be met, and we have no other source of means but the tithing of the

Saints. Is it a hard thing as some have thought when those who have preached the Gospel free without hire or price, in nearly all the world, have gathered scores of thousands of the Saints from the old world countries, have built the Temples and Tabernacles and made Zion what she is to-day, and during all this time have borne the scoffs and jeers, the mobings and whippings, and endured shame in the eyes of the world for the Gospel's sake, and are still doing it? Is it, I say, too great a thing, that God should require, and that his people should ask, that all who now come in, should obey the same law that we have obeyed? Should comply with the same requirement which we have, and still do, comply with in order that they may come in upon the same floor with us, and be partakers of the same heavenly gift, eternal life? Is it asking too much?

But, it may be urged, the people of the south are too poor to pay tithing. They are not poorer, nor indeed as poor as the people of Utah when they sent those teams across the plains to gather the poor Saints from the old countries. I, and many of my companions, on that long weary journey across the plains in 1844, walked and drove our teams, barefooted, nearly all the way home, and in those days in Utah, many went the same way. The Lord blessed them so that by their

sacrifices and determination to keep His commandments, the windows of Heaven were opened unto them, a steady stream of God's favors has flowed unto them and today they are well-to-do and independent in their sphere. Remember that if a person earns but one dollar, his tithing is but 10 cents, while he who earns \$1,000, his tithing is \$10; yet the poor man is as much in duty bound to pay his 10 cents (it is as the "widow's mite") as he who earns the greater sum, and the Lord rewards each accordingly. In Zion no man is permitted to act as a teacher or hold any responsible position in the Priesthood, or go to the Temple who does not pay his tithing.

Every man, woman and child who are members of the church should remember and pay their tithes. All you who do this and continue to do it as the time rolls on, and will attend to your prayers and seek diligently to keep the commandments of the Lord in all things, the blessings of the Lord shall rest abundantly upon you, and be with you, and a better and brighter day shall dawn upon you and you shall be blessed in all that you set your hands unto in righteousness.

All tithing should be sent direct to this office, either by Postal Order or Registered Letter addressed to E. H. NYE, P. O. Box 381, Atlanta, Ga. Small amounts may be sent 'a stamps.

FAST DONATIONS AND CARE FOR THE POOR.

"For the earth is full and there is enough and to spare; yea, I prepared all things, and have given unto the children of men to be agents unto themselves.

"Therefore, if any man shall take of the abundance which I have made and impart not his portion, according to the Law of my Gospel, unto the poor and the needy, he shall, with the wicked, lift up his eyes in hell, being in torment." Doc. & Cov. Page 379. 17-18.

"For ye have the poor always with you," said Jesus. Mat. 26:11.

The first Sabbath in every month has been designated by the Presidency of the church as a day of fasting, for the Saints in Zion, and in all her stakes and wards, and in all missions and branches, and for every individual member of the church. It is taught throughout the church that all, except little children, should fast from Saturday night till Sunday night, and that the food thus saved, or the value of it, should be given (at home in Zion) to the Bishop; but here in the mission, sent to the President of the Conference, and thus a fund is provided from which the worthy poor are assisted. All members of the church, rich and poor, even the poorest of the poor, should observe this day of fasting, and should remember to send their fast offerings to the President of the

Conference.

Who can claim that they have the love of God burning in their soul, or that they have charity for their fellowman while they sit and eat a hearty meal, and feed themselves full of the bounties God has given them, while they know a poor brother or sister in the church is suffering for the lack of food? Solomon the Wise, said, "Who so stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard." Prov. 21:13; and the Saviour said, "And with what measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again." Mat. 7:2.

We here at mission headquarters are continually receiving letters asking for help. A cry for food comes up to us from the poor and what have we with which to help them? Oh ye Saints of the Southern States Mission! Listen to the cry of the poor! Remember the Fast Day. Let it be a day of fasting and prayer; let your prayers ascend unto the Most High God; call upon his holy name; send up your petitions unto him, morning and evening every day and on the Fast Day let it be in fact and indeed a day of fasting and of prayer, and forget not to send your fast offerings to your Conference President. So shall the blessings of the Lord flow unto you, for all who obey the law of tithing honestly before the Lord, observe the fast day, that it be a day of supplication and prayer, and provide for the poor, shall

drink at the fountain of joy, they shall feast upon the bounties of the earth; their land shall yield forth in its strength; the blessings of heaven shall descend upon them as the gentle dews of the morning while their hearts rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PURITY OF THE LIVES OF SAINTS.

Whoredoms, Prostitutions, Adulteries, Fornications, Seductions, and all their kindred crimes, in the world to-day, comprise one of the greatest abominations of the age in the sight of God. Many people of the world today, believe the Gospel we preach, but because of indulgences which they cannot break off, they continue aliens and foreigners to the Kingdom of God; while others beholding the beauties of the Gospel, bow in obedience to its ordinances, yet never comprehend the fact, that once they are washed and cleansed from their sins, they should thereafter live a pure and an upright life. The Saviour said he came to call sinners, not the righteous, to repentance.

When the Gospel goes forth among men, the people, who listen to its precious truths, believe it to be the only way to obtain eternal life; and thus believing adopt it as their guide. Their first step is, not only a mental effort, or action of the will, but an actual physical labor, a turning away from all their evil habits and indulgences. Repentance means to cease to do evil

and to henceforth live a pure and a righteous life. Baptism washes away our sins and we then stand before the Lord as pure and innocent as a new born child. Our bodies then, are fit receptacles of the Holy Ghost, which through the ordinance of laying on of hands, is conferred upon us, and it takes up its abode within us as a constant companion to guide us into all truth and give us an understanding of the things of God. Thus we come into harmony with the Lord. When we have partaken of the emblems of the Saviour's flesh and blood, we are sanctified thereby, and have become Saints. Thus sinners are transformed into Saints through obedience to the laws of God. Jesus said, "He that eateth this bread, eateth of my body to his soul; and he that drinketh of this wine, drinketh of my blood to his soul * * * Now when the multitude had all eaten and drank behold, they were filled with the Spirit." B. of M. Page 523, verse 8. As the Apostle Paul says, "Ye are the Temple of the living God. As God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God and they shall be my people" 2 Cor. 6:16. Again, "know ye not that ye are the Temple of God and that the spirit of God dwelleth in in you? If any man defile the Temple of God, him shall God destroy." 1 Cor. 3:16. John the Revelator, speaks of a certain chosen ones who, "were not defiled with women." Rev. 14:4. How

can a man be defiled with a woman? Certainly not by his wife, for Paul says, "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled, but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." Heb. 13:4. Clearly then, all who obey the Gospel and through its ordinances become Saints, should remember to keep themselves pure and undefiled, and live lives of virtue, and be honorable and upright before the Lord and all mankind, and in all such, the spirit of the Lord will delight to dwell, constantly springing up in their souls a source of joy and happiness within them and they will have a conscience void of offense before God.

EXCERPTS FROM THE WORD OF WISDOM.

A revelation given through Joseph the Seer, at Kirtland, Geauga, Co. Ohio, Feb. 27th, 1833.

1. A word of wisdom for the benefit of the council of high Priests, assembled in Kirtland, and church; and also the Saints in Zion.

2. Given for a principal with promise adapted to the capacity of the weak and the weakest of all saints.

3. That inasmuch as any man drinketh wine or strong drink among you, behold it is not good, neither meet in the sight of your Father.

4. And again, strong drinks are not for the belly but for the washing of your bodies.

5. And again, tobacco is not for the body, neither for the belly, and is not

good for man, but is an herb for bruises and all sick cattle, to be used with judgment and skill.

2. And again, hot drinks are not for the body or belly.'

Much more is given in the revelation as a guide for man, and which should be read, but it is too long to be inserted here. The Lord closes his instructions with the following promise:

"18. And all saints who remember to keep and do these sayings, walking in obedience to the commandments, shall receive health in their navel and marrow to their bones, and shall find wisdom and great treasures of knowledge, even hidden treasures; and shall run and not be weary and shall walk and not be faint; and I the Lord give unto them a promise that the destroying angel shall pass by them, as the children of Israel, and not slay them. Amen."

DUTIES OF THE SAINTS.

If one would enjoy the sacred influence of the spirit of the Lord and be in perfect harmony with him, he should attend to every known duty. He should observe the Sabbath day and spend it in worshipping the Lord. If there are meetings of the saints, in the neighborhood, attend them, and worship in spirit and in truth. If there is a Sabbath school, attend that and take part in its exercises. He should train up his children in the fear of the Lord, by sending them to Sab-

hath school, and by teaching them to pray night and morning, in one family circle, having them take a part in the family prayer, by praying in their turn in the family with father and mother. He should teach them to pay their tithing, as soon as they begin to earn anything, and to fast and to pay their fast offerings. He should never be seen to use tobacco in their presence, nor at all, for a person who does not use tobacco can soon detect it on those who do, for it smells around. It is a dirty, filthy habit, and a person who is about to be baptized should make up his mind that he will leave the desire for it in the water with his sins and if he sets his heart to do it he will succeed. An idler has no business in the church. The Lord declares that "The idler shall not eat the bread or wear the clothes of the laborer." A man should be energetic, industrious, and wisely direct his course. He should be fixed in his purpose, unwavering in his faith and persevere to the end. All who do these things the Lord will reward and abundantly bless.

EMIGRATION TO THE WEST.

It should be understood that the presidency of the church, in Zion, do not think it wise for the saints of this mission to emigrate. Their counsel to the members is to remain for the present where they are or where the Gospel finds them. There are many reasons at present for this. There is

but little room for new settlers. All the available land has been taken up. The country is much colder than this. There are many idle men there who can not get work to earn their living. It is very discouraging for those who are used to this country to get out there and then find neither land to take up nor employment to get. All the members who are now in the mission are advised to remain where they are and help to build up their branches, and the work of the Lord in these Southern States. When the time comes that the Lord desires that the saints should move to the west, word will go forth from the presidency to that effect. In case of any who feel that they must go, they should write to this office and consult with us before selling out, or pulling up stakes, or taking any active measures in relation to going west. We can get them better rates on the railways than they can obtain.

EPHRAIM H. NYE

President Southern States Mission